

the Norfolk Bee

OCTOBER 2022 • NORFOLKBEEES.ORG

NEXT CLUB MEETING

OCTOBER 3, 2022

7:30 to 9:00 pm

**Hybrid
In-person
and on Zoom**

400 Main Street
Walpole, MA



Dear Fellowbeekeepers,

At the board meeting the other night, we discussed a lot of things and made some new plans for the future. I just want to acknowledge what a great job the board members and guests did in making these plans (see letter to the club from the board). Thank you to everyone that came to the meeting, commented, and helped make these decisions.

Due to COVID, our club has changed a lot. We now have members that come from far beyond our “normal” Norfolk county area. This is a testament to the quality of our club, our meetings, our bee schools, and to our membership. We have extraordinary beekeepers, teachers, mentors, and board members. I think that we stand out due to the quality of our education and our community. So I thank you all for everything you do, whether it is helping a new beekeeper their first year, or volunteering to be on a committee, or stepping in at a meeting and helping out. We can’t be the club that we are if it wasn’t for all of you dedicated beekeepers.

Respectfully yours,

(The Bee Man)

Dear Club Members,

The NCBA Board met on Monday, September 19, 2022, during which we reviewed some of the issues brought up during the club’s spirited email exchanges of the last two weeks. Specifically, we discussed the format of club meetings going forward. Historically, our meetings have been in person and held at the Norfolk Aggie. However, during the pandemic we made the change to Zoom-only meetings, and we acknowledge that now, it is neither possible nor desirable to return to solely in-person meetings.

Therefore, the board of directors have agreed that all meetings going forward will be a hybrid format—they will be held in-person and simultaneously live streamed, and recorded if possible. Links to the meetings will continue to be sent out through group emails as they have for the last couple of years. This format will apply to all meetings, including the holiday party in December and plant sale in May.

As well, we will also send out links to the recorded meetings when available.

We encourage as many members as possible to attend the in-person meetings, as we believe that the benefits of getting to know your fellow club members are equally as important as the information that our presentations impart. In an effort to encourage attendance to both in person and hybrid meetings, we will continue to offer different door prizes for the in person participants (items and gift cards) as well as those who participate through Zoom (gift cards).

As always, if you have suggestions, or would like to be part of the decision-making process, please join us at our monthly NCBA Board meetings. We look forward to seeing you next month!

Sincerely,

Your Board of Directors
Norfolk County Beekeepers Association



News from the Landing Board

The October 3rd Meeting Agenda

NCBA BOARD MEMBERS

2022-2024

PRESIDENT

Tony Lulek

VICE PRESIDENT

Mohamad Khalil

TREASURER

Stephen Green

RECORDING SECRETARY

Edward Rock

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Kevin Keane

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Carin Cohen, Joel Richards,
and Jenna Tibbetts



October: Mary Duane and the EAS meeting and Eric Studer on Quilt Boards

Mass Bee is hosting the Eastern Apicultural Society of North America (EAS) annual conference next summer at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst from July 31-August 4, 2023. All county clubs are being asked to pitch in. EAS is an international nonprofit educational organization founded in 1955 for the promotion of bee culture, education of beekeepers, certification of Master

Beekeepers and excellence in bee research. EAS is the largest noncommercial beekeeping organization in the United States and one of the largest in the world.

Eric Studer will walk club members through a critical part of winter prep, managing condensation in the winter hive.

NCBA BEE SCHOOLS:

INTRODUCTORY SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Tony Lulek

INTRODUCTORY SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR

Dana Wilson

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

DIRECTOR

Ed Szymanski

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR

Marian Szymanski

NCBA TECH GURU

Greg Rushton

APPAREL

Marybeth Noonan and Maureen Harrington

DOOR PRIZE/RAFFLE

Kara Sullivan

HOSPITALITY

Rose Thornton and Carin Cohen

EXTRACTORS

Brianda Younie

MEMBERSHIP/FACEBOOK/GOOGLE

Rose Thornton

Deb Spielman

LIBRARIAN

Michael Simone

PROGRAMS

Ed and Marian Szymanski

It's time to renew your NCBA membership!

The best bargain around is the Norfolk County Beekeepers Association. Now is the time to renew your membership!

Your \$25.00 membership makes you eligible for 50% OFF a new queen, hundreds of dollars in door prizes, scholarships (Cornell Master Beekeeper certificate program and Rearing Queens classes), Facebook group, Google Group, and this amazing newsletter. Plus, we'll also help you learn and grow as a beekeeper, which is the best benefit of all. Renew now!



Reply vs. Reply All

Just a friendly reminder: please be aware of the difference between "Reply" and "Reply All" when responding to emails on the NCBA Google Group.

"Reply" appropriately limits your response to the sender of the initial message.

"Reply All" sends your reply to

ALL the *millions* of people on the Group. Quick replies of, "Me too!", "Thanks for sharing!", or "Honey really gives me horrible gas", may be over-sharing, and clutters up everyone's inboxes.

So, please remember the difference between **Reply** and **Reply All**.

Winter Prep Checklist

by Ed Szymanski

Everything we do (or should be doing) with our bees all year, whether it's mite counts and treatments, food supplements, requeening, etc. will all have an effect on the bees' winter survival. However, there are certain tasks that need to be done in the fall to help give them the best possible chance of survival.

Mites under control – this is #1 - hopefully you've kept up with your mite counts and treatments when necessary during the year, and now, especially, you need to keep your winter bees healthy. Test at least one more time and apply one more treatment if needed. "Touch up" with an Oxalic acid vapor or dribble late fall/early winter.

If you've taken care of your mites, hopefully colonies are free of disease (DWV, other viruses, PMS) at this point.

Check to see if colonies are queenright, if not combine with a queenright colony.

Check for good population, 8-10 frames bees minimum, if not, dispatch the weak queen and combine with a stronger colony.

Build up winter food stores. For 2-deep box hives, we always looked for a total weight of 100+ lb for Eastern Mass. For single deep hives, our goal is 75 lb. Feed 2:1 syrup until temperatures reach freezing. Be sure to have robbing protection on the hives as you feed.

Frames of honey strategically located – for multiple brood hives, the food must be adjacent to and above the winter cluster; for single deeps,

all available comb should be filled.

Mouse guards should be put in place – temperatures are already reaching 45F at night, mice are looking for warm places to nest.

Check to be sure no

mice are in there already so you don't trap them inside.

Feeding shims/candy boards – install before it's too cold to open the hives. Then you can slip patties in quickly when needed.

Honey supers and queen excluders should be off – let the bees have any honey collected from now on for winter. Minimizes the amount of the sugar syrup you'll have to feed them. And it's better for them.

Upper entrance – make sure they have a way to get out when the bottom of the hive is buried in snow and it's warm enough for a cleansing flight

Cut insulation board or homasote to fit under the outer cover. We use a piece of ¾" foam insulation cut to fit tightly inside the outer cover. This will eliminate a cold spot where condensation could occur and drip down onto the cluster. Moisture will flow out of the top entrance.

If you use quilt boxes, get those ready to install soon.

Secure hives with ratchet straps (we have ours on all year).

Slatted racks will keep the bees up further from the cold incoming air. Also keeps the wax away from the Oxalic Acid vaporizer (yes, it has happened). This is a matter of preference.

Wrap if desired –another matter of preference. A piece of tar paper or black plastic will provide extra protection against cold winds and will allow for some heat gain on a cold sunny morning. Be sure to leave entrances and ventilation holes clear.

Protection from wind – if your apiary has no natural protection from cold north winds, a fence or pile of hay bales can help break the wind.

Once winter comes, be sure to keep entrances cleared of snow and sweep out the dead bees once in a while. Watch where the bees are in the hive – once they move to the top, it's time to put fondant or sugar patties on. An Infrared camera helps with that. Don't knock on the side of the hive to hear if they're still alive! It breaks their torpor and makes them consume excess food. Watch food stores all the way to April – don't lose a colony to starvation in the early spring!

Did I mention mites under control?



Bemused

by Susan Golswitz

How can we approach poetry; how can we read and hear it, absorb what it offers and begin a conversation?

What is it, anyway?

While no one definition can encapsulate the entire arc of poetry, we can say at least that poetry is language music. The comparison is apt. With both, even given a finite number of ingredients (26 letters in English, 88 keys on the piano, for example), transcendent magic can be created. There are infinite types of both poetry and music: jazz, classical, Afro-Pop, Blues, Tibetan throat singers, and sonnets, free verse, epic, confessional – I could go on. Poetry, like music, is ephemeral and transient; both respond to and emanate from the heartbeat. Like music, poetry was born of song and started before print, lasting (with some exceptions), only as long as the poet's/singer's voice and breath. Listening to the ebbs and flows, vowels and tides, rhymes and dissonance, inhales and exhales was the original way to receive both arts.

How to start?

Introduction to Poetry

I ask them to take a poem
and hold it up to the light
like a color slide

or press an ear against its hive.

I say drop a mouse into a poem
and watch him probe his way out,

or walk inside the poem's room
and feel the walls for a light switch.

I want them to waterski
across the surface of a poem
waving at the author's name on the shore.

But all they want to do
is tie the poem to a chair with rope
and torture a confession out of it.

They begin beating it with a hose
to find out what it really means.

Billy Collins

As beekeepers, our favorite line might be, "...or press an ear against its hive." Many of us have actually done that, especially in late winter. By listening, we can learn if the hive is alive, grateful for its survival and endurance. Is the

image not saying that a poem is a lively, working organism as well, busy in its interior activity – even if from the "outside" it seems static – just black words on a white page (usually) or like a stagnant seeming hive?

The last stanza holds the real reveal. Whoever decided that poems must have "meaning," that poets are wicked, nefarious, demented puzzle makers creating little vexing games for the head scratching uninitiated, should be made to endure some toasty fate in the underworld. Poems should not be distilled down to a pithy phrase embroidered on a pillow either, like "Carpe Diem," or "Love Hurts," or "Autumn is Transitory." There's too much work in constructing even the smallest couplet or haiku to reduce them to a banal toss-away, even if finely stitched. Move through each poem slowly, appreciatively – listen to its sound and sense, walk along the path it's making and try not to see a looming pop quiz or a reminder of some High School class you couldn't wait to be released from.

That said, as we "waterski/across the surface" of these poems together, my purpose is not to provide "meaning" or analysis, but to widen an opening door and share an impression. Yours might be different, and can be just as valid. As it's said, and I paraphrase, "Ask three beekeepers three questions and you'll get six answers." Poetry is at least as complex and multi-directional as beekeeping.

With that landscape in mind, here are two bee centered poems what address a similar subject in very different ways.

When Grapes Turn to Wine

When grapes turn
to wine, they long for our ability to change.

When stars wheel
around the North Pole,
they are longing for our growing consciousness.

Wine got drunk with us,
not the other way.
The body developed out of us, not we from it.

We are bees,
and our body is a honeycomb.
We made
the body, cell by cell we made it.

Rumi
(version by Robert Bly)

(Please turn to page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

The Hive

The colony grew in my body all that summer.
The gaps between my bones filled
with honeycomb and my chest
vibrated and hummed. I knew
the brood was healthy, because
the pheromones sang through the hive
and the queen laid a good
two thousand eggs a day.
I smelled of bee bread and royal jelly,
my nails shone with propolis.
I spent my days freeing bees from my hair,
and planting clover and bee sage and
woundwort and teasel and borage.
I was a queendom into myself

Jo Shapcott

Rumi's poem constructs an inversion of the process we're familiar with, which we experience usually going only one way: grapes fermenting into wine, the spiraling of the spheres, the making of honey. In this poem, everything is alive, moving, advancing, creating – sometimes in ways we expect, sometimes the reverse, but never in flux. The objects or processes he mentions also have intention and consciousness; they are personifications showing their yearning for movement and aspiration.

Shapcott's poem (a good example that art does not necessarily come from the artist's actual experience; if it did, I don't envy Shapcott this transformation!) is like a fever dream of transfiguration, a metamorphosis where one's passion becomes an actual physical being, turning a human into a Bee Divinity of sorts – a living bee hive altar. Instead of eating honey and having it be absorbed into the body, Rumi would see, in Shapcott's poem, the corporeal body making, reforming itself into a giant, thrumming hive.

Conversation to be continued!

Susan Goldwitz is a NCBA member and prizewinning poet who has taught literature and writing courses on disparate levels from men's and women's prisons to undergraduate and graduate programs.

She recently gave a talk on "Dickinson's Bees" at the Emily Dickinson Museum in Amherst, Massachusetts, and has been keeping bees for about ten years.



Bee School alumni can audit Intro Bee School

Did you know that Bee School alumni who are looking for a refresher can register at no charge? Want to take the whole course? Just one or two of the classes? These are both options. You can check out the course agenda by going to the club web site www.norfolkbees.org click on the bee school tab and scroll down to the bottom. Space for alumni is limited. If you are interested send an email to dwilson831@gmail.com expressing your interest and whether you would like to take the whole course or which individual classes you would like a refresher on. If you are thinking that you need a refresher but these classes are too basic for your level of expertise, remember to sign up for Intermediate Bee School.



At Home Beekeeping webinar

Mary Duane at MassBee forwarded this:

The Alabama Extension System, in cooperation with Extension Systems and University Bee Labs across the SE United States, hosts a monthly series called the *At Home Beekeeping Series* on the last Tuesday of each month from 6:30-7:30 PM CST. This FREE VIRTUAL SERIES highlights new research and best beekeeping practices from bee labs in the SE US. It is open to everyone!

There are two ways to join us for this free webinar:

Via Zoom (no registration necessary): <https://auburn.zoom.us/j/904522838>

Via Facebook Live: <https://www.facebook.com/LawrenceCountyextension>

One can find the recorded video on our [Facebook](#) page. It will only be posted for two weeks, so don't delay.



Board Meeting Minutes 9/19/22

The Board of Directors Meeting is the third Monday of each month.

It's held at 7:00pm via a Zoom Video Meeting.

All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

NCBA BOARD MEETING

SEPTEMBER 19, 2022

7:10 to 8:40 pm

Attending:

Tony Lulek
Mohamad Khalil
Dana Wilson
Stephen Greene
Ed Rock
Kara Sullivan
Jennifer Jett
Lara Davis
Michael Simone
Ed Szymanski
Kevin Keane
Brian Hart
Mary Beth Noonan
Jinni Stutzman
Christian Stutzman
Brianda Younie
Deborah Spielman
Val Mayo
Marian Szymanski
Roger Q. Hill
Mark Minnichelli
Jenna Tibbets

President's Update – Tony L

- Old & New Business
- Tony made a statement about proceeding with NCBA meetings.
- Direction is to move toward all hybrid meetings, acknowledging both the social nature of personal contact at face-to-face club meetings, yet offering zoom opportunities for club members who can't make it to the face-to-face meetings.
- Discussion
- Consider tech needs to make the true hybrid meeting an easier event to produce.
RECOMENDATION: develop a set of recommendations for technology purchases and procedures to facilitate smoother running hybrid meetings
- We need to consider strategically how to produce meetings that will maximize the value of a hybrid meeting. Mo and Ed will look into it ...with Aggie resources and possibly buying our own resources.
- **Motion:** Setting aside \$500 as resource to purchase microphones to facilitate zoom hybrid meetings. Motion Passed
- **Motion:** we will move forward with hybrid meetings. Motion passed.
- o NCBA delegation to Mass Bee – Mo and Jenna
- July 31-August 4th is next meeting in Amherst
- looking for lots of volunteers, donations of materials.
- We can have a club table.
- October meeting – Eric S. volunteered to do a quilt board presentation

Vice President's Update – Mo

- Nothing new.

Treasurer Update – Stephen

- Bank balance \$42,210.70 as of 9/19/2022
- Financials Accepted.

Recording Secretary: Minutes – Ed R

- Meeting notes accepted

Corresponding Secretary – Kevin Keane

- Nothing new –
- Deadline for Kevin – 9/23/22

Committees:

- Programs – Ed S and Marion
- Mary Duane and EAS meeting will be the topic for October)
- Brian McCafferty and Mo K have also expressed an interest in helping with programming
- **NCBA Intro to Bee School** – Tony and Dana
- 23 enrollees now
- 6 in person and 4 zoom meetings...yet all hybrid
- Reviewing curriculum and editing for currency and accuracy
- **Intermediate Bee School** – Ed & Marion
 - Wednesday 9/21 night is last class for this session
- **Extractors** – Brianda

(Continued on next page)

NCBA Program Development

Want to learn and help with NCBA program development? NCBA is looking for an organized and creative person to join Ed Szymanski as he plans and recruits speakers for the monthly NCBA meetings.

It's a great way to learn about and meet the biggest names in the beekeeping community (and they, in turn, learn about and meet you too). You will get a ringside seat into the latest trends and research about bees, plus you will help keep the monthly meetings informative and engaging.

If interested, please contact Tony Lulek.

No food or drink in Aggie Auditorium

Norfolk Aggie has done some renovations to the auditorium in the MCR. They have installed new carpeting and ask that we refrain from bringing food or drink during our meetings. Food and drink are permitted in the lobby.

(Board meeting minutes, continued from previous page)

- Extractor use was good
- Some folks aren't fully cleaning the units
- Currently a total of 6 in operation, consider purchasing one or two more ...need to analyze
- Would like to deploy some resources to the south in the county
- **Library** – Michael Simone
 - Michael will be weeding out old or obsolete texts and bringing in new texts.
 - Look at December meeting as a standard “book sale” activity
- **Door Prizes** – Kara
 - For the meetings – we'll have inperson and zoom'ed door prizes (gift certificates about \$40/prize and physical prizes)
- **Website** – Greg
 - Everything is OK with e-mail migration
 - Setting up a scholarship email
- **Membership** – Facebook – Google Groups - Rose & Deb
 - 619 members (members and bee school folks)

What's blooming

In October look for plants that have late blooms due to the summer's drought: Joe Pye Weed, New England Asters (there are also New York Asters (*Aster novi-belgii*) but they only cheer for the Yankees), Sedum, Goldenrod, Japanese Anemones, and Jerusalem artichokes are in bloom.



A picture says a thousand words. Thanks to Dana Wilson for providing this timely photo of using a Ziploc bag to feed bees.

- Dues \$25/year for membership
- Google and Facebook groups have been updated
- **Bee Apparel** – MaryBeth and Maureen Harrington
 - Considering “print on demand” vendor and allowing club members to order (T.R. Miller in Walpole is one suggestion – Tara has a contact there)
 - We have logos and art ready to go
 - Consider polling the whole club for “what do they want”
 - Brian Hart also volunteered to help out
- **Calendar Committee** – Jenna Tibbetts
 - Updating for the month of October
- **Nominating Committee**
- **Scholarships and Grants** - Lara Davis
 - Updated website and applications
 - Website is (drafted) for the Jan Daniels Grant for educational activities – limit \$500 per project
 - Do we want to solicit donations to fund this scholarship/grant?
 - We need to evaluate how we can accept general or restricted funds as donations
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:40PM

You know that
good friend
or relative
who's
intrigued
about bees?

Tell them about the NCBA Bee School 2023

Bee School fills up quick and it is the perfect opportunity to dip one's toe into the world of beekeeping.

Registration is now open. Best of all they can sign-up online!

[Sign-up online.](#)



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Custom Hive stand and Screened Bottom Board

Built as one piece instead of two separate pieces for stability. They are made with galvanized 1/8" screen and white plastic slide-in tray to count mites. Glued and screwed together for long lasting durability.

Slatted Racks Completely assembled, glued and nailed. This gives the bees more room in the hive on rainy days and when they are all in for the night making them less likely to think about swarming due to crowding.

Supers Made out of pine; with pre-drilled finger joints, and handles cut into boards, comes unassembled. Deep, Medium and Shallow available.

Inner Cover Ventilated, wooden inner cover.

Outer Cover covered with Tin Made from 3/4" exterior plywood, completely assembled, glued and screwed. Cover comes with tin cover to protect from outdoor elements.

Complete Hive Setup Includes screened bottom board, two deep supers, 20 frames with wax foundation, inner cover and outer cover.

Hive Frames—Deep, Medium, and Shallow Wooden frame, made out of pine, held together with 10 nails. (Does not include wire or foundation).